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and

forming of a beam for reading the optical code, said unitary body also having an integrated collection surface for reflecting at least a portion of light returning from the optical code to a photodetector.

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4. (Amended) The device according to claim 3, wherein the outer region of the outer surface of the unitary body, also referred to as the collection surface, is a beam splitter.

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13. (Amended) A multipurpose unitary body for supporting a laser source and collecting light reflected from a target in an optical system, the optical system for projecting and collecting laser light in order to read an encoded indicia, said multipurpose unitary body comprising: a laser support region for supporting said laser source; and at least one collection surface for collecting light reflected from said indicia.

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17. (Amended) The multipurpose unitary body of claim 13 wherein at least one collection surface can function as a beam splitter.

18. (Amended) A multipurpose unitary body for supporting a laser source and collecting light reflected from a target in an optical system, the optical system for projecting a focused beam of laser light and collecting reflected light in order to read an encoded indicia, said multipurpose unitary body comprising:

a laser support region for supporting said laser source;

an output surface substantially perpendicular to said beam for transmitting said laser light; and

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a collection surface for collecting light reflected from said indicia, wherein said collection surface substantially transmits a P-polarized component and a portion of an S-polarized component of said reflected light and redirects an appropriate amount of the remaining S-polarized component of said reflected light to a photodetector to enable said optical system to read said indicia.

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22. (Amended) A unitary body for collecting light reflected from a target in an optical system, the optical system for transmitting a beam of laser light and collecting reflected light in order to read an indicia, said unitary body comprising: an output surface substantially perpendicular to said beam for transmitting said laser light; and a collection surface for collecting light reflected from said indicia, wherein said collection surface substantially transmits a P-polarized component and a portion of an S-polarized component of said reflected light and redirects an appropriate amount of the remaining S-polarized component of said reflected light to a photodetector to enable said optical system to read said indicia.

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24. (Amended) In a method for reading optical codes, a method of forming a beam of light comprising the steps of:

emitting light from a light source; and

passing the light through a unitary body of optical material which forms an aperture using an aperture forming area and modifies a beam phase using a beam phase modifying area to effect a focus free forming of a beam for reading the optical code, said unitary body further collects reflected light received from the optical code and directs at

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least a portion of said received light to a photodetector using a collection area.

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27. (Amended) The method according to claim 26, wherein the outer region of the outer surface of the unitary body, also referred to as the collection area, is a beam splitter.

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36. (Amended) A method of generating a signal from a target, comprising the steps of:

- focusing P-polarized laser light from a laser source along an optical path through a unitary body of optical material in a bar code reader to said target;
- redirecting at least a part of an S-polarized component of light reflected from said target using at least one surface of said unitary body, said surface further substantially transmits the P-polarized component and the remaining S-polarized component of said reflected light; and
- detecting at least a part of said redirected S-polarized component of light reflected from said target.

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42. (Amended) An optical code reader for reading an optical code by projecting laser light at said indicia and collecting light reflected from said optical code, the optical code reader comprising:

- a pen-shaped housing;
- a laser source for emitting said laser light;
- a unitary body for focusing said light into a beam, said unitary body having an output surface perpendicular to said beam through which said beam can be transmitted

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toward said optical code and a collector surface positioned for directing at least a portion of said returning beam to a photodetector; and

a detector for receiving a portion of light reflected from said optical code by said collector surface and producing an electrical signal corresponding to the intensity of said reflected light, wherein said laser source, said unitary body, said collector and said detector are situated in said housing.

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54. (Amended) A wand reader for reading an optical code by projecting a focused beam of light at said optical code and collecting return light reflected from said optical code, the reader comprising:

a light source for emitting light energy;

a unitary body for focusing said light energy into the focused light beam, said unitary body having an output surface perpendicular to said focused light beam through which said focused light beam can be transmitted toward said optical code and a collector surface positioned for directing at least a portion of said returning beam to a photodetector; and

a detector for receiving a portion of the return light reflected from said optical code and producing an electrical signal corresponding to the intensity of said return light, wherein said light source, said unitary body and said detector are situated in an antenna for use with a wireless transceiver of a telephone or personal digital assistant.